

# PEACE OFFER IS WITHDRAWN

## No Forcible Annexations or Indemnities Agreement Is Declared Void

### KALEDINES DECLARES NEW REPUBLIC

## CENTRAL POWERS BACK DOWN ON THEIR PROMISES

The Central powers have withdrawn their "no forcible annexations or indemnities" peace offer of December 25, made during the negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk. The offer was conditioned upon its acceptance by all the powers hostile to the central powers, and the former having failed to accept it as a whole, it has become null and void. The German foreign minister announced at Brest-Litovsk yesterday. The failure of Russia's allies to respond to the invitation to participate in the conference has resolved the question into one of a separate peace between Russia and the central powers, it was declared by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian minister who originally propounded the peace terms.

The attitude of the Russians was not reported in the dispatches describing the Brest-Litovsk proceedings which evidently were of German origin and came through by way of Amsterdam. The Russian delegates have been strenuously objecting to the continuance of the negotiations at the German eastern headquarters, but the firm determination of Germany and her allies not to consent to their transfer to Stockholm was reiterated yesterday.

**Kaledines Declares Republic.**  
PETROGRAD, Thursday, Jan. 10.—Reports from Rostov today say that the Republic of the Don has been declared existent with General Kaledines as president and prime minister.

**AMSTERDAM, Jan. 11.**—The Central powers have withdrawn their peace terms made public at the Brest-Litovsk conference on December 25, it was announced by Dr. von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, in his speech at the Brest-Litovsk conference with the Russians yesterday.

**AMSTERDAM, Jan. 11.**—Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, at a full sitting of one peace conference at Brest-Litovsk on Thursday said that the Russian allies had replied to the invitation to participate in the negotiation of a separate peace between Russia and the central powers.

He gave reasons for not wishing to transfer the negotiations to neutral territory and said that if the Russians were animated by the same intentions as the central powers the result of the negotiations would be satisfactory. If not, responsibility for war would fall exclusively on the Russians.

Dr. von Kuehlmann, the German foreign minister, said he considered that the difficulties which had interrupted the previous negotiations were not sufficient to justify the failure of the peace program and a probable resumption of hostilities. He said that it was the fixed and unchangeable determination of the central powers to

termination of the central powers not to conduct elsewhere the peace negotiations begun at Brest-Litovsk.

**Turk Opens Meeting.**  
A Brest-Litovsk dispatch giving an account of the session yesterday says it was opened at 11 o'clock, all the delegations, including the Ukrainians, participating. Talaat Bey, the Turkish grand vizier, called the meeting to order and turned over the chair to Dr. von Kuehlmann, who said:

"Inasmuch as changes have occurred in the composition of some of the delegations it will not be out of place to give a short survey of the history of the course of the negotiations."

After a lengthy review of the proceedings to date, Dr. Kuehlmann said he hoped they would lead to a salutary result. His hope was based on knowledge gained during the negotiations and on the expressing by the Russian delegation of the Russian people's wish for secure and lasting peace.

He continued:

"I consider that the difficulties met with up to the time the negotiations were interrupted were not great enough to cause the failure of the peace work and presumably resumption of war in the east with its unforeseen consequences."

**Convention of Peasants.**  
PETROGRAD, Wednesday, Jan. 9.—The Social-Revolutionists are planning to hold a convention of Peasants' deputies and other organizations in connection with All Russian Workers' and Soldiers' congress on January 21. An effort will be made to form a federation of Russian republics, including the Ukraine, Siberia, the Don territory and the Caucasus.

**Kaledines Leading Cossacks.**  
LONDON, Thursday, Jan. 10.—A majority of the Cossacks and the population of the Don district are grouping themselves around the Don military government under General Kaledines, according to a special dispatch from Petrograd tending to give an authorized account of conditions in south Russia. General Kaledines' principal aim is not to upset the Bolsheviks but to consolidate democratic republican power of the Don district.

**General Alexieff Gathers Soldiers.**  
General Alexieff, former Russian commander-in-chief, around whom has gathered a corps of some 25,000 soldiers, has considered it necessary to organize a struggle against the Bolsheviks on an All-Russian plan and to create in Russia a moderate liberal regime. Monarchical principles are said to be very strong among Alexieff's group.

General Kaledines and his party oppose General Alexieff in his desire to utilize the Don government against the Bolsheviks and is willing to include in the Don government representation of the city.

**To Install Food Commissary.**  
One of the first moves of the city will be to install a "sales commissary" at which foodstuffs brought from America will be sold at less than the

COOL BOY PRAISED BY PERSHING



SYLVAN TAYLOR

Private Taylor, Washington boy who went to France with U. S. engineers in August, has been commended by General Pershing for coolness in action. His detachment was doing construction work on a front line trench Nov. 15-16 when the sector was shelled and gassed by the Boches.

Taylor and the others worked under the shell fire, suspending operations only while they were compelled to wear their gas masks. Taylor is 21 and enlisted in July.

Representatives of all the democratic organizations in order to bring an end to civil war.

**PETROGRAD, Wednesday, Jan. 9.**—The French government has appointed General Toulme the representative of France to the Ukrainian republic. This is considered in Petrograd as recognition by France of the independence of the Ukraine.

The announcement was made by an officer of the French military mission.

**PREMIER HUGHES IS RE-INSTALLED**

**MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan. 11.**—Several days of political uncertainty have ended with the re-installation in power of the nationalist government headed by William Morris Hughes. There has been no change in the makeup of the Hughes government. At one time it was thought that Frank Tudor, the labor leader, would be commissioned by the government to form a labor government.

Premier Hughes is criticized by the press and is accused of breach of faith by some politicians because of the pledge he gave at Bendigo during the recent referendum campaign that the nationalists would not govern the country if conscription was defeated. The Australian voters returned a majority against conscription in the referendum.

A motion of no confidence has been introduced in parliament by Mr. Tudor.

**PROGRESS.**  
"Are you trying to economize?" "Yes, I've actually gotten on so far that I've quit telling people what to do and am going without a few things myself."—Washington Star

## Teutons Are In Retreat

Troops Caught Under Italian Fire Suffer Heavy Losses.

### PRISONERS TAKEN

Severe Artillery Fire on West Front Positions Keeps Up.

**ROME, Jan. 11.**—Austro-German forces yesterday were forced to evacuate some trench sections near Cavazzuchina on the Italian mountain front, the war office announced today. The retreating Teutons were caught under the Italian fire and suffered considerable losses.

**Heavy Artillery Duels.**  
LONDON, Jan. 11.—"With the exception of hostile artillery activity east of Vimy ridge, there is nothing to report," says today's official announcement.

**French Take Prisoners.**  
PARIS, Jan. 11.—French troops carried out raids in the region of the Argonne and in the Vosges region, bringing back prisoners from the German lines, the war office announced today.

The statement follows:

"In the Argonne at Courte Chaussees and in the Vosges, in the region of Blemerey, French detachments made incursions into the enemy lines and brought back prisoners. The artillery fighting was rather severe at times in the region of Beaumont and Bezonvaux (Verdun front). On the remainder of the front the night was calm."

"On Wednesday two German airplanes were brought down in aerial combats."

**REVIEW OF WAR SITUATION.**  
Peace negotiations between Russia and the central powers will be continued at Brest-Litovsk, according to information in Amsterdam, apparently despite a vigorous protest by Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, who heads the Russian delegation. At the opening of the new sitting of the conference, Trotsky demanded that the delegates go to Stockholm.

Premier Lenin, before leaving Petrograd, ostensibly for Finland, but probably for Stockholm for conference with the Austrian and German socialists, declared that if the central powers do not accept Russian peace terms the Bolsheviks will declare war against Germany. He expressed fear that preparation would have to be made for hostilities.

The establishment of a separate peace with Russia apparently is the present aim of the central powers, according to Amsterdam dispatches. Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, has told the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk that, inasmuch as Russia's allies had not replied to the invitation to take part in the negotiations, a separate peace is now the question at issue. While opposing the transfer of the peace conference to neutral territory, Count Czernin is said to have declared that if the Russians were animated by the same intentions as the representatives of the central powers, the result of the negotiations would be satisfactory.

**Central Powers Hate Wilson.**  
Initial comment in the German and Austrian press on President Wilson's message is bitterly hostile. His program is declared to be unacceptable and one Pan-German paper says it is "more brutal still" than the recent statement of Premier Lloyd-George. The president is accused of desiring to hinder the Brest-Litovsk negotiations and Vienna newspapers declare that his peace conditions are such as could only be imposed on the central powers if they were defeated completely.

**British Make Successful Raids.**  
British troops in the Ypres area have executed successfully three raids into the German lines. Many casualties were inflicted and prisoners were

## Lenine Not Too Hopeful

Central Powers Must Accept Russ Peace Conditions or War Goes On.

### PREMIER'S SPEECH

If Germans Buy Off Ukraines Trotzky's Power Will Wane.

**LONDON, Jan. 11.**—Nikolai Lenine, the Bolshevik premier, although he has possibly gone on a holiday to Finland, also possibly may go to Stockholm to confer with German and Austrian socialists, the Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News says.

In a speech before his departure from Petrograd Premier Lenine said: "I fear we shall have to stop the demobilization and prepare for war. If Germany and her allies do not accept our conditions of peace we will declare a revolutionary war on them."

The correspondent emphasizes the possibility of an agreement between the Bolsheviks and Ukrainian negotiators as the position of the rada has lessened Trotsky's chances of obtaining a satisfactory peace. He says that if the Germans could buy off the Ukrainians the significance within Germany of Trotsky's stand would be cut in half. The correspondent adds that nothing is more foolish than to suppose that because the Ukraine oppose to Bolsheviks, it therefore favors the allies and prosecution of the war.

On the remainder of the front in France the artillery on both sides is active, especially in Flanders, in the Arras-Cambrai area in Champagne and northeast of Verdun. The artillery fighting on the northern Italian front is less intense, being most marked east of the Brenna.

Discussion of the French government's diplomatic conduct of the war will be heard in the chamber of deputies today. The government has announced that it will accept such discussion.

**SHOE CONTRACTS LET.**  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Contracts for 9,000,000 pairs of half soles and 7,000,000 topsets for heels were let today by the section on supplies of the advisory commission of the council of national defense. The half soles will cost \$4,500,000 and the topsets \$1,250,000.

**ALFONSO SIGNS NEW DECREE.**  
MADRID, Thursday, Jan. 10.—King Alfonso today signed a new decree dissolving the cortes. Elections will be held February 24 and the new parliament will meet on March 18.

## BAKER ASSURES THE SENATE SUPPLIES FOR WAR ADEQUATE

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.**—Secretary Baker's examination today before the senate military committee was warmed up by a rapid cross-fire of questions by senators of both parties who did not agree with the generally favorable view of war preparations depicted by Mr. Baker's statement of yesterday.

The senators declared his declaration that war supplies were adequate would mislead the country. Senator Weeks declared the country "should not be lulled to sleep by a general statement of facts that don't exist."

Mr. Baker explained that he meant to convey only the impression that all the men ready for the fighting line were adequately equipped. Senators Wadsworth and Weeks, Republicans, and Senators Chamberlain and Hitchcock, Democrats, took the lead in cross-examining the secretary and at times handled him without gloves.

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.**—When Secretary Baker's examination was resumed today Chairman Chamberlain said there were fears for powder production.

"The situation is satisfactory and I think supplies are and will continue adequate," replied Secretary Baker.

Senator Wadsworth asked about the board of labor standards which testimony has said has pacifists and socialists among its members and is requiring new specifications in army cloth contracts which will reduce production.

"I know their character and expert qualifications well," said Secretary Baker in defense of the board.

**Delays Are Slight.**  
Senator Wadsworth said the board's requirements were so rigid that production of army garments are being delayed. Any delay is slight, Secretary Baker said, and health of factory workers is an important consideration.

"I must disagree with you that the delay is slight," said Senator Wadsworth.

Senator Wadsworth said a witness had testified the board's standardization of contracts threatened to cause strikes and cause employers to receive labor leaders. He thought labor agitators would stir up trouble.

Mr. Baker denied knowledge that any considerable number of contractors were refusing to execute contracts because of the new labor standards.

**Board Has Too Large Powers.**  
Senator Weeks thought the board had large and very drastic powers but Mr. Baker contended the board's functions are purely advisory. Chairman Kerstein, he said, was a Boston business man, Captain Krensi, an army officer, and the third member, Florence Kelly, a social welfare worker.

Senator Weeks challenged the statement that the board was only advisory and complained of the multiplicity of new boards and special committees.

**Too Much Red Tape.**  
"Persons with business are passed along from corridor to corridor and building to building trying to find the right federal agency with which to do business," said the senator.

Turning to artillery, Senator Wadsworth assailed the ordnance department for not continuing the manufacture of French 20.40 millimeter guns instead of proceeding with manufacture of American 3.5 guns, none of which have been delivered and whose

ammunition is not interchangeable with the French.

Secretary Baker said he thought, but was not sure, that the department was making the French type and promised to give further information.

**Wadsworth Pounds Table.**  
"There has been no explanation given yet to the committee," said Senator Wadsworth, pounding the table with his fist.

Senator Wadsworth asked whether, in view of the shortage of artillery and machine guns, the secretary's statement that there were sufficient supplies "substantially for rush needs," was correct.

"Yes, perfectly as I understand it," said Mr. Baker. "Our rush needs are satisfied."

Senator Chamberlain asked Baker how he could say that when cannonments were short rifles and machine guns and artillery.

"I mean then that there is enough for the men actually engaged in fighting,"

**Sufficient Guns For Fighters.**  
"You mean that there is sufficient men in France?" said Senator McKellar.

"Yes," said the secretary.

"Your statement that we have substantially enough gives a wrong impression to the country when we have only enough for men actually in the fighting and not for those in training," said Senator Wadsworth.

"I agree with Senator Wadsworth," said Chairman Chamberlain, "that your statement gives a wrong impression to the country. It was not your purpose but it is its effect."

"What I meant to say and what I want the country to understand," Mr. Baker replied earnestly, "is that all the troops in France will be adequately equipped with artillery and arms."

"Probably," observed Senator Chamberlain.

"I have assurances to that effect," Mr. Baker testified.

"The statement leaves the impression that the situation is a rosy one and that we have all the artillery we need," said Senator Wadsworth. "I disagree. It is not an accurate description of the situation."

Mr. Baker insisted that his statement regarding adequacy of ordnance for "rush needs" was substantially correct. He admitted that ordnance was needed for training men in camp. Time needed to train men in France, he said, will give the time to increase ordnance supplies.

Senator Weeks cited the general ordnance shortage at Camp Bowie, Tex., testified to by Major General Greble, commandant.

"You have given the impression that every camp has enough rifles," Senator Weeks observed. "How can you confirm that by the statement that there are no requirements of artillery?"

"I didn't make that statement," said Mr. Baker.

"You gave that impression," "I said 'initial rush needs' are filled," explained Mr. Baker.

"But you ought to define your statement; it gives the country the impression that every need in the camps is supplied," said Mr. Weeks.

Mr. Baker said enough rifles since (Continued on Page 4)

## City of Central France Ready for New Influx of Americans

**A CITY OF CENTRAL FRANCE.**  
Thursday, Jan. 10.—Although the influx of hundreds of staff officers belonging to the lines of communication branch of the American army has not yet begun, and although their transfer from Paris here is supposed to be a deep secret, this beautiful city in central France is already aware that it will soon be host to the newest allies. American flags are already waving from many buildings and the citizens are preparing what promises to be a most enthusiastic welcome to the newcomers.

The preparations for the advent of the Americans—numbering several hundred officers and twice as many assistants, clerks, civilians and military nurses—are almost completed so that when the men begin to arrive in a day or two each one will find comfortable quarters arranged for him either in some one of the half dozen good hotels here, or in the private houses that have been rented by the advance agents. They will find themselves quartered "for the duration of

the war" in one of France's most beautiful and most beautiful cities where cleanliness apparently has been made a cardinal virtue; where food, especially fresh vegetables in season and dairy products, are plentiful; where the water supply offers none of the drawbacks that must be contended with close behind the front and from which they can operate fully as advantageously as from Paris.

All available rooms engaged.

Available hotel rooms have been engaged and private houses have been rented until the end of the war. Rooms also have been engaged in private homes for additional officers who may be distributed in part among the families of the city and in part will be housed in huge barracks on the outskirts of the city.

**To Install Food Commissary.**  
One of the first moves of the city will be to install a "sales commissary" at which foodstuffs brought from America will be sold at less than the

local market prices if possible so that the presence of the Americans will not have the effect of forcing up prices to the distress of the inhabitants.

A medical officer who has made an exhaustive examination finds the water even better than in Paris, sanitation excellent and the houses clean and everything moderate to a surprising degree.

**Full Arrangements Made.**  
Arrangements have already been completed whereby the American forces can draw from the French all necessary fuel; thus there will be no suffering from what at this time is unusually cold weather. The American officers have found the mayor and other city officials ready for co-operation in the fullest degree. The quarters in the main have been secured by the mayor, who asked the citizens to show their patriotism by giving up a portion of their houses to their American allies. The Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association have already established branches here.

## Unstinted Praise for Men and Officers of Destroyer Jones

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.**—Secretary Daniels made public today a summary of the official report of Lieutenant Commander David W. Bagley on the sinking of a German submarine of the American destroyer Jacob Jones on December 6, when two officers and sixty-four men lost their lives. Commander Bagley gives unstinted praise to the behavior of officers and men and especially commends by name ten of them.

The submarine, the report says, was not sighted until after fifteen minutes after the destroyer had gone down. But the torpedo was sighted half a mile from the ship and Lieutenant S.

F. Kalk, officer of the deck, who afterwards died from exposure, immediately ordered a maneuver to avoid being struck. The torpedo, however, was too near to allow the destroyer to clear it and it struck with a heavy explosion. The ship quickly settled by the stern and the engine room was soon flooded. The radio antenna, and the main mast were carried away.

Most of the men not killed by the explosion got clear of the ship and reached rafts or wreckage. Eight minutes after the torpedo struck at 4:21 p. m., the Jones sank stern first. Efforts were made to collect the survivors in a motor dory and then the nearest land was headed for to secure aid to the remaining survivors on the rafts. After 24 hours the dory sighted a patrol vessel and the commander of the patrol station reported to Commander Bagley that the other survivors all had been rescued.

Seaman Phillip J. Burger, of Lansingburgh, N. Y., is highly praised in the report for his efforts to clear the vessel's motor sailer which could have saved 20 or 30 lives. He stuck to the job until drawn under water with the boat, being rescued himself later when he came to the surface.